

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Alan M. ROBINETT & Carl SCHAUBLE

Serial No.

Filed: March 20, 1998

For: METHOD OF MANUFACTURING  
CITRIC ACID CHELATES

Examiner:

Art Unit: 1103

*2/A*  
*R. Cassaway*  
*6-10-98*

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The present application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 of co-pending of U.S. Serial No. 08/755,236 filed November 22, 1996. A Petition for One-Month Extension was filed in Serial No. 08/755,236 on March 17, 1998, thereby maintaining co-pendency of Serial No. 08/755,236 while filing the present case.

Please enter the following amendments:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 14, 15 and 19.

Please amend claims 1, 16 and 17 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of manufacturing a water soluble composition adapted for subsequent solubilizing and application to agricultural crops, comprising the steps of:
- mixing a divalent metal salt, citric acid and sodium citrate to
  - 5 obtain a nitrate-free mixture having a moisture content of from approximately 10% to 1.25% by weight; and
  - processing the nitrate-free mixture in a drying environment to obtain a nitrate-free product which is partially chelated and has a moisture content less than that of the mixture prior to processing.

16, 17 (Amended) A water soluble composition adapted for subsequent solubilizing and application to agricultural crops, [comprising] consisting essentially of a nitrate-free partially chelated mixture of a [divalent] divalent metal salt,

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*A<sup>2</sup>*  
*B*